The numbering of the amino acids begins with a methionine start codon of the published ORF23sequence (A.J. Davison & J.E. Scott. (1986), J. Gen. Virol. 67, 1759-1816) as shown in this Figure.--

Page 4, paragraph 1, delete paragraph.

paragraph 2, delete paragraph and insert --Figure 2 shows data obtained from an ELISA test in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.--

paragraph 3, delete paragraph and insert --Figure 3 shows data obtained from another ELISA test in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.--

paragraph 4, delete paragraph.

Page 9, paragraph 2, delete paragraph and insert --Example 3: Cloning ORF23 (VP26) The viral DNA (see Example 1) or the phagemid vector, pBK/CMV-23, obtained from the immunoreactive lambda phage served as a template for amplifying the ORF23 (VP26) or, respectively, the ORF23 fragment (VP26*) which was inserted in vector pBK/CMV-23. The following primers were used as amplification oligonucleotides: VP26:VP26H 5' GGAATTCCGGATGACACAACCCGCATCGTCTCGTGTA 3' (SEQ ID NO:3); VP26R 5' GGCTCTAGATTACACCCTACGACTTCTTGAAGCGTTTCC 3' (SEQ ID NO:4); VP26*:VP26*H 5'

GGAATTCCGCGCCTGCAGGTCGACACTAGTGGAT 3' (SEQ ID NO:5); VP26*R 5' GCTCTAGATTACACCCTACGACTTCTTGAAGCGTTTCC 3' (SEQ ID NO:4)--;

paragraph 3, delete paragraph and insert --These oligonucleotides are complementary to the corresponding segment of the published VZV sequence (A.J. Davison & J.E. Scott. (1986), J. Gen. Virol. 67, 1759-1816) or the sequence of vector pBK/CMV (Strategene), but they contain, at their 5' termini, a restriction cleavage site sequence which did not hybridize the template DNA. After amplification had taken place, the amplificate, of 726 bp or 714 bp in size, respectively, was cleaved terminally with the restriction enzymes EcoRI and XbaI and ligated into expression vector pMAL-c2, which had been linearized previously with EcoRI and XbaI. The entire ORF23 was completely sequenced in an overlapping, bidirectional manner. The vectors were designated pMAL-VP26 and pMAL-VP26*, respectively. In addition, the region (VP26*) encoding the immunoreactive protein was cloned into vector pQE30. VZV genomic DNA was used as the template DNA. The following primers were used as amplification oligonucleotides: VP26*:VP26* 5' CGGATCCGATCCCAGCAACCCCACCAC 3' (SEQ ID NO:6); VP26R 5' GCTCTAGATTACACCCTACGACTTCTTGAAGCGTTTCC 3'.(SEQ ID NO:4)--;